

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Debra L. Maccagnano (formerly Debra L. Mathwich), age 51, of Wausau, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 12 months in prison for bankruptcy fraud. Maccagnano pleaded guilty to this charge on August 3, 2006.

In September 2001, Maccagnano and her then husband filed a voluntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition. During the months immediately preceding the filing, Maccagnano went on a spending spree, charging in excess of \$115,000 worth of consumer goods. While the bankruptcy petition listed the consumer credit card debt accrued by Maccagnano, the petition listed none of the recently purchased consumer goods as assets. The bankruptcy petition was dismissed when the U.S. Trustee was notified by creditors of the recency of the purchases.

The charges against Maccagnano (formerly Mathwich) were based on a referral from the U.S. Trustee's Office and an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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